



December 15, 2005

TO: Transportation Authority of Marin Commissioners

FROM: Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director

RE: Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310 Funds Overview – Item 5f

Dear Commissioners:

Executive Summary

The FTA Section 5310 Grant Program provides funding to States to assist private nonprofit groups (or public agencies if no private nonprofits are readily available) in meeting the transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities. Funds are apportioned based on each State's share of population for the target groups, and FTA annually obligates funds based on the program of projects included in a statewide grant application.

Overview

At the November 17th meeting, the Commissioners requested additional information concerning the availability of FTA Section 5310 grants (49 U.S.C. 5310). This program provides funding to States to assist private nonprofit groups (or public agencies if no private nonprofits are readily available) in meeting the transportation needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities. Funds are apportioned based on each State's share of population for the target groups, and FTA annually obligates funds based on the program of projects included in a statewide grant application.

Once FTA approves the application, the State is responsible for allocating funds in compliance with federal requirements, providing as many opportunities for private nonprofits as feasible, and coordinating the Program with other federally assisted transportation services. While most funds are used to purchase vehicles, other eligible expenses include the procurement of transportation services, communication equipment, and computer hardware and software; lease or other arrangements; and state program administration.

In California, projects are awarded through a competitive application process based on scoring criteria adopted by the California Transportation Commission. Grantees are required to submit quarterly reports, and Caltrans makes biennial inspections. In addition, each project has a required 20 percent local match.

No Marin projects received Section 5310 funding in FY05/06. However, for FY03/04 and FY04/05, three Marin County non-profits received Section 5310 grants:

PROJECT SPONSOR	FY	PROJECT	PROJECT TYPE	FEDERAL AMOUNT	TOTAL COST
Casa Allegra Community Service	FY03/04	Minivan	Replacement Vehicle	\$ 41,000	\$ 51,250
Marin Ventures	FY03/04	Small Bus (Qty. 4)	Service Expansion	172,000	215,000
Novato Human Needs Center	FY 04/05	Small Bus	Replacement Vehicle	46,000	57,500
TOTAL				\$ 259,000	\$ 323,750

FY06/07 Funding Cycle

Applications for the next funding cycle are due to MTC, Caltrans, and the Paratransit Coordinating Committees (PCCs), on **February 24, 2006**. (This regional deadline is in advance of the state deadline of March 3, 2006.) Both MTC and Caltrans will be offering workshops to assist applicants:

MTC Workshop – “Preparing a Winning Section 5310 Application”

January 12, 2006, 10:00 am – 12:00 n
101 - Eighth Street, Oakland (MTC Auditorium)

Caltrans Section 5310 Application Workshop

January 19, 2006, 10:00 am to 1:30 p.m.
111 Grand Ave., Oakland (1st floor)

The application form, application instructions, scoring criteria, and other relevant documents are available on the Caltrans website at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/ost.htm>.